

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

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December 19, 2017  
Start: 11:15 a.m.  
Recess: 12:01 p.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: JULISSA FERRERAS-COPELAND  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
JAMES G. VAN BRAMER  
VANESSA L. GIBSON  
ROBERT E. CORNEGY, JR.  
LAURI A. CUMBO  
COREY D. JOHNSON  
MARK LEVINE  
I. DANEEK MILLER  
HELEN K. ROSENTHAL  
STEVEN MATTEO  
BRAD LANDER

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

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[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Good

morning and welcome to today's finance meeting, I...  
the final one of 2014 to 2017 session. My name is  
Julissa Ferreras-Copeland and I am the Chair of this  
Committee. We've been joined by Minority Leader  
Matteo. Majority Leader Van Bramer, Council Members  
Gibson, Cumbo, Cornegy and Johnson. Today we'll be  
voting on two items, a transparency resolution and an  
LU item. Let's start with the transparency resolution  
which sets forth the new designations and changes in  
designations of certain organizations receiving local  
and youth discretionary funding and funding pursuant  
to certain initiatives in the budget. Organizations  
appearing in the resolution that have not yet  
completed the prequalification process conducted by  
the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, the Council  
or any other entity are identified in the attached  
chart with an asterisk. As with all transparency  
resolutions Council Members will have to sign a  
disclosure form indicating whether or not a conflict  
exists with any of the groups on the attached list.  
If any Council Member has a potential conflict of  
interest with any of the organizations listed, he or

1  
2 she has the opportunity to disclose the conflict at  
3 the time of their vote. As a reminder please disclose  
4 any conflicts you may have with the proposed  
5 subcontractors used by organizations sponsored by  
6 discretionary funding. These disclosures must be made  
7 before the subcontractor can be approved. Rohan Grant  
8 from the General Council's Office is here and can  
9 assist you with any questions or concerns regarding  
10 the disclosures. We also will be voting on an LU  
11 item, the Banana Kelly Project in Council Member  
12 Salamanca's district in the Bronx, this property  
13 would receive a full 40-year property tax exemption  
14 to preserve 21 units of affordable housing under the  
15 city's HDFC Program, Council Member Salamanca  
16 supports this project. Before the roll is called I  
17 would like to end on a personal note as this is a  
18 bittersweet day for me. Today of course is the last  
19 time I will Chair the Finance Committee, it has been  
20 an extraordinary honor and privilege to serve as the  
21 Council's Finance Chair these past four years. There  
22 are many people for me to acknowledge and thank,  
23 first and foremost thank you to our Speaker Melissa  
24 Mark-Viverito for the trust placed in me to serve in  
25 such a crucial role amongst my colleagues, your

1  
2 legacy as a leader of this body is an exceptional  
3 one. Both the city and the council are better off  
4 because of the efforts you have made these past four  
5 years. I must of course also thank the Speaker's  
6 Chief of Staff, Ramon Martinez for his advocacy on  
7 behalf of this institution and its members but also  
8 for being a very direct and clear friend. To my  
9 colleagues on the Finance Committee, Majority Leader  
10 Jimmy Van Bramer, Minority Leader Steve Matteo,  
11 Council Members Corey Johnson, Helen Rosenthal,  
12 Daneek Miller, Laurie Cumbo, Mark Levine, Robert  
13 Cornegy, Vanessa Gibson, and Ydanis Rodriguez I have  
14 enjoyed working with each one of you and this  
15 committee's success results from the work we have  
16 done together. Aside from the hundreds of hours of  
17 budget hearings we sat through together that helped  
18 inform the passage of four budgets, we have passed 51  
19 bills on a wide range of issues from providing tax  
20 relief to veterans and small businesses to combating  
21 deed fraud to increasing oversight and accountability  
22 over the city's tax expenditures, we've preserved  
23 14,414 units of affordable housing across the five  
24 boroughs, we created 3,354 units of affordable  
25 housing and we created six business improvement

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2 districts. The committee councils have prepared a  
3 summary presentation of the committee's  
4 accomplishments this session which each Council  
5 Member can find at their desk in front of them. to  
6 the Council's Finance Division your knowledge and  
7 expertise and invaluable... are invaluable to this  
8 council and none of these victories I mentioned would  
9 have been possible without your hand... your hard work  
10 and tireless dedication. Thanks to our incredible  
11 Finance Director, Latonia McKinney, I could not have  
12 asked for a better partner as we negotiated the last  
13 four budgets and the numerous achievements we  
14 received... we achieved together have undeniably had an  
15 enormous impact on the people of this city. It has  
16 been a truly rewarding experience working with you  
17 and developing a friendship that will last beyond my  
18 time at the council. I also want to thank the staff,  
19 our wonderful Finance Division staff; Deputy Director  
20 and Chief Economist Dr. Ray Majeski, Deputy Director  
21 Regina Poreda Ryan, Deputy Director Nathan Toth,  
22 Deputy Director Paul Scimone, Assistant Director Emre  
23 Edev, Finance Council Rebecca Chasan and Eric  
24 Bernstein, Supervising Economist Paul Strum, the  
25 Finance Unit Head Eisha Wright, Chima Obichere, John

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2 Russell, Dohini Sompura, Crilhien Francisco, and the  
3 Finance Analyst and Economist Jessica Akerman, Aliya  
4 Ali, Sabastian Baschi [sp?], John Baseal [sp?], Sarah  
5 Gastelum, Hector Jerman [sp?], Kenny Grace, Zachary  
6 Harris, Elizabeth Hoffman, Sheila Johnson, William  
7 Kyeremateng, Jin Lee, Cara McDonald, Jeanette  
8 Merrill, Nameera Nuzhat, Kaitlyn O'Hagan, Jimmy  
9 Ragusa, Steve Riester, John Seltzer, Kendall  
10 Stephenson, Andrew Wilber and Davis Winslow. I also  
11 would like to thank the Finance Support Staff Nicole  
12 Anderson and Maria Pagan and just when I finally got  
13 to learn how to pronounce your names I'm leaving.  
14 Last but certainly not least I'd like to acknowledge  
15 my amazing staff past and present, you all should be  
16 incredibly proud of the work we have done on behalf  
17 of the people of my district and of this city. And  
18 with a very, very happy holiday season to all unless  
19 there are any questions on the two items I will ask  
20 Billy Martin for the last time, the Committee Clerk  
21 to call the roll, are there any questions? Seeing  
22 none, Billy please call the roll.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: William Martin,  
24 Committee Clerk roll call vote Committee on Finance,  
25 it's been an honor. Chair Ferreras-Copeland?

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2 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: I proudly  
3 vote aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Rodriguez?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER RODRIGUEZ: Aye and thank  
6 you Julissa, Councilwoman for your leadership and  
7 good luck in your future.

8 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Van Bramer?

9 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Permission to  
10 briefly explain my vote. I just want to say as  
11 someone who has known Julissa Ferreras-Copeland for  
12 almost 20 years, who literally taught me how to dance  
13 merengue, that is a true story that Julissa knows,  
14 and I do it well rather honestly. I just want to say  
15 thank you and obviously you know the 21<sup>st</sup> council  
16 district is close to my heart, my mom grew up there  
17 and its been an amazing journey for both of us since  
18 the late 90's when we came to know each other through  
19 politics but I wish you and your amazing family so  
20 much happiness and so much joy and, and know that  
21 you've done an incredible, incredible thing here on  
22 behalf of your district and your family, your mom and  
23 your dad who I love as you know and really there's a,  
24 a great legacy that you leave that hopefully can be  
25 built upon in the next session but thank you,



1  
2 congratulations and, and all the best to you and I  
3 vote aye, right.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Gibson?

5 COUNCIL MEMBER GIBSON: Permission to  
6 explain my vote briefly? Thank you Madame Chair and I  
7 too want to join all my colleagues and really  
8 commending you for a job well done. It's been an  
9 honor to serve with you as your colleague, as your  
10 friend, as your sister, fellow women's caucus member,  
11 certainly there is so much we have in common chairing  
12 really important committees both finance and public  
13 safety and I am so proud of the work we've done  
14 collectively over the past four years. The  
15 investments we've made in summer youth, in all year-  
16 round youth employment and certainly from the public  
17 safety perspective having really difficult  
18 conversations about raising the head count at the  
19 NYPD and supporting police officers through training  
20 and technology and all the resources that they need  
21 to do their jobs as public servants. It was a  
22 difficult conversation and you took it on with me  
23 head on and I will never ever, ever forget that so as  
24 we leave each other certainly we will remain friends  
25 and we will remain in contact and I wish you all the

1  
2 very best. I know that god has something greater in  
3 store for you in your next chapter of public service  
4 but whatever path god takes you on know that you are  
5 loved and appreciated and we truly are grateful for  
6 you, you've been a role model for so many women,  
7 certainly for me as Chair of Public Safety, it hasn't  
8 been easy chairing this committee but I've certainly  
9 looked to you for a lot of leadership and guidance  
10 and you've always done that and most of all praying  
11 for me as I pray for you and so I wish you all the  
12 best. Thank you for serving us so ably as our Finance  
13 Chair, its been a great pleasure, women leading this  
14 body and I look forward to what god has in store for  
15 both of us. So, thank you so much [Spanish dialogue]  
16 god bless you and I vote aye on all, thank you.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Cornegy?

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: Permission to  
19 very briefly explain my vote? As I heard everybody  
20 else's comments I was thinking about mine and which  
21 ones would be appropriate for public consumption and  
22 I, I came... I, I came up with you are going to be  
23 truly and incredibly missed, my other comments will  
24 be... [cross-talk]

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CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Right...

[cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: ...for later...

[cross-talk]

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Okay...

[cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: ...in private.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: And you vote

aye?

COUNCIL MEMBER CORNEGY: I vote aye,

thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Uh-huh. Cumbo?

COUNCIL MEMBER CUMBO: Permission to

explain my vote for as long as it takes? I just want  
to say how proud I am of watching you over these last  
four years with each budget negotiation to see you,  
the Speaker and the Mayor all standing there together  
made me feel so proud and I want to thank you for  
your leadership, for your guidance, for being a  
dynamic and powerful woman that we could all look up  
to and support and I thank you personally and  
professionally for helping me through learning how to  
navigate becoming a mom, being a Council Member,  
running for office and having a controversial land

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2 use deal all at the same time, you were the only  
3 woman that I could talk to about all four of those  
4 incredibly dynamic things because you had stepped out  
5 before me which gave me the confidence to know that  
6 it could be done. So, I thank you, I thank you for  
7 teaching me how to make baby formula, for helping me  
8 through all of those tough experiences and you are a  
9 role model and you are battle tested and anything  
10 that you go on to do is going to be phenomenal, so  
11 Marilyn watch out, thank you so much, we love you and  
12 I can't thank you enough for your leadership and I  
13 proudly vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Johnson?

15 COUNCIL MEMBER JOHNSON: I want to  
16 congratulate you Julissa, its very exciting for you  
17 and your family after four years. I remember four  
18 years ago you had just had Julian after the 2013  
19 election and to watch you chair this important  
20 committee and to be a mom and to navigate the balance  
21 between work life and family life while serving your  
22 constituents as Lori said working on complicated Land  
23 Use projects like Willets Point even after it was  
24 done or supposedly done I think really is a testament  
25 to you being a role model not just for women here who

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2 are elected but women who work here in the council  
3 and men who need to see strong women do these things  
4 so I want to just congratulate you and tell you I'm  
5 wishing you the best of luck and with that I vote  
6 aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Matteo?

8 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: I'm going to  
9 start by echoing your comments Madame Chair about  
10 your staff and, and the staff here, just... you have  
11 been tremendous to work with over the last for me two  
12 years since I became Minority Leader and a member of  
13 this committee, I've known a lot of you since I was a  
14 staffer, so I want to start off by commending you and  
15 I think we ought to give them a, a well-deserved  
16 round of applause...

17 [applause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: Your work is  
19 certainly appreciated by everyone of us here.  
20 Julissa, I have nothing to say to you... no... it's all  
21 been sent... you know Corey said a role model and you  
22 certainly are a role model to, to just about everyone  
23 who comes across your path, I've known you for a long  
24 time as a staffer and the best thing I can say to you  
25 is you treat everyone the same whether they're a

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2 staffer, whether a colleague, you are truly, truly a  
3 wonderful person. Coming from the republican on this  
4 committee you have been a great Finance Chair, you  
5 have been open to my ideas, you have been willing to  
6 push the envelope especially with the Veterans tax  
7 exemption, we've passed bids together, you've been a  
8 great partner, you and I sitting in endless committee  
9 hearings in the afternoons and, and, and making sure  
10 we hold agencies and commissioners responsible, you  
11 have just been a fabulous leader but for me more  
12 importantly you're a wonderful friend, that will  
13 never change. I, I wish you and your wonderful family  
14 all the best, so god bless you and your family, we  
15 are certainly going to miss you here in the council  
16 and I personally will miss your friendship every day,  
17 but you know that won't end and we'll continue to  
18 talk everyday and we all love you and with that I  
19 will vote aye.

20 COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: By a vote of  
21 eight in the affirmative, zero in the negative and no  
22 abstentions both items have been adopted by the  
23 committee.

24 CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Thank you  
25 and again thank you to all my colleagues. I'm going

1  
2 to take this transcript and read it in Maryland all  
3 the time because it is very powerful, thank you. I  
4 also wanted to take this moment to thank the Sergeant  
5 at Arms who have been with us and the people who do  
6 all of our video work so that our parents could watch  
7 us at home, I think we actually have like... our  
8 parents are the only ones that watch this at home so  
9 I want to thank them for the... their amazing work and  
10 their delinquency and to all of our district staffs  
11 and all of your staffs because they, they are the  
12 ones that hold us up at the end of the day so thank  
13 you all. I am humbled and really have... I don't... I  
14 don't have enough words to thank all of you for  
15 everything you've done. For those of you that I've  
16 known for 20 plus years, to those that I've just met  
17 recently I hope that you have felt my love and  
18 appreciation for all of you. [Spanish dialogue] and  
19 we will have this committee open for an additional 15  
20 minutes for additional members. I thank... I feel like  
21 I needed to gavel out and I can't gavel out now  
22 because we're going to keep it open.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: That, that would  
24 be pretty dramatic... [cross-talk]

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CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: Dramatic,  
right... [cross-talk]

COUNCIL MEMBER MATTEO: ...you should just  
gavel off...

CHAIRPERSON FERRERAS-COPELAND: But again  
we'll keep... staff please let your members know we're  
going to keep the roll open for 15 minutes [Spanish  
dialogue] to all of you, thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: Continuation of  
roll call, the Committee on Finance, Council Member  
Rosenthal?

COUNCIL MEMBER ROSENTHAL: Aye on all,  
thank you.

COMMITTEE CLERK MARTIN: The final vote  
Committee on Finance all items have been adopted now  
by a vote of nine in the affirmative, zero in the  
negative and no abstentions.

[gavel]



C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date

January 13, 2018